

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No. 2012 IECDB 14

James C. Larew

DISMISSAL ORDER

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012, a complaint filed against James Larew came before the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. For the reasons that follow, the Ethics Board hereby dismisses the complaint.

James C. Larew was employed in the office of Iowa Governor Chester Culver from 2007-2011, serving as both General Counsel and Chief of Staff. On April 23, 2012, Mr. Larew filed a class-action lawsuit in the Iowa District Court for Muscatine County on behalf of certain Muscatine residents against Grain Processing Corporation ("GPC"). On July 20, 2012, Eric Thomsen, Secretary and General Counsel for GPC filed a complaint with the Ethics Board alleging Mr. Larew's representation of the plaintiffs in this lawsuit violated Iowa Code section 68B.7. Attached to the complaint was a pending court motion and memorandum in support thereof filed by GPC to disqualify Mr. Larew as plaintiffs' counsel on the grounds that Mr. Larew violated section 68B.7. In response to the complaint, Mr. Larew provided to the Ethics Board his resistance to GPC's motion that was also filed with the Court.

The Ethics Board met on September 26, 2012 and considered the complaint against Mr. Larew. It deferred any determination on the legal sufficiency of the complaint pending the Court's ruling on GPC's motion to disqualify Mr. Larew.

At the end of September, the Court issued its ruling denying GPC's motion to disqualify Mr. Larew as Counsel. It found that Mr. Larew did not violate Iowa Code section 68B.7.

Typically, the Ethics Board reviews a complaint and determines whether it is legally sufficient. Iowa Code § 68B.32B(4). If a complaint is deemed legally sufficient, the Board orders an investigation. *Id.* § 68B.32B(6). If the Ethics Board determines none of the allegations contained in the complaint are legally sufficient, the complaint is dismissed. *Id.*

With respect to the complaint against Mr. Larew, the Ethics Board believes it would be a waste of resources to investigate the allegations made in

the voluminous court documents attached to the complaint and provided thereafter given the fact that the allegations have been heavily litigated and ruled upon by the Court. The Ethics Board hereby exercises its administrative discretion and dismisSES the complaint without a determination regarding probable cause. See Iowa Admin R. 351—9.2(5)(c).

By direction of the Ethics Board



---

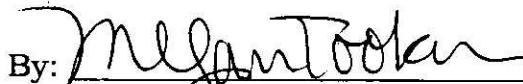
James Albert, Chair  
John Walsh, Vice Chair  
Saima Zafar  
Carole Tillotson  
Jonathan Roos  
Mary Rueter

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies this order was sent by first class mail, address service requested, on November 28, 2012, to:

Mr. James C. Larew  
504 Bloomington Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245

Mr. Eric Thomsen  
1600 Oregon Street  
Muscatine, IA 52761

By: 

Megan Tooker, Executive Director for the Board